

Senate Concurrent Resolution No. 4

RESOLUTION CHAPTER 32

Senate Concurrent Resolution No. 4—Relative to public health awareness.

[Filed with Secretary of State May 3, 2005.]

LEGISLATIVE COUNSEL'S DIGEST

SCR 4, Torlakson. Public health awareness.

This measure would encourage various government, community, school, and workplace activities in support of public health awareness and prevention of obesity and diabetes.

WHEREAS, California is experiencing an epidemic of obesity and diabetes, costing the state financially and causing suffering, illness, and death for many Californians; and

WHEREAS, The new year provides an opportunity for individuals and organizations to assess the challenges ahead and make commitments for improvement in their personal and professional lives; and

WHEREAS, State leaders in all branches of government have recognized the problems of the epidemic, and through a bipartisan, inclusive commitment can lead the state toward increased physical activity and improved nutrition and wellness; and

WHEREAS, Cities, towns, counties, and special districts have opportunities to affect the epidemic positively through the built environment through planning and programs that may include the provision of safe and accessible walking and bicycling facilities and infrastructure; and

WHEREAS, Children spend a significant amount of time in school settings, and schools have opportunities to affect the epidemic positively by offering nutritious food and snacks, quality physical education and health studies, after-school programs, and school-based recreational activities; and

WHEREAS, Workplaces can improve productivity, promote health, and reduce liability costs by making available healthy food service and vending choices, increasing access to safe stairways, encouraging bicycling and walking for commuters, and making other changes related to employee health; and

WHEREAS, The state's unique climate and geography provides opportunities for all Californians to engage in recreational and physical activities in neighborhoods and communities, and local, state, and national parks and recreation facilities; and

WHEREAS, The state has widespread access to fresh and healthy food because of its great agricultural production, fine restaurants, creative chefs, and health food advocates; and

WHEREAS, Being overweight or obese is associated with an increased risk of developing serious disease, including diabetes, heart disease, and cancers of the breast, colon, endometrium, gallbladder, esophagus, pancreas, and kidney; and

WHEREAS, Health costs of the epidemic are dramatic, costing the state at least \$21.7 billion annually. Efforts to remedy the problem will pay for themselves by reducing these costs; and

WHEREAS, California is a leader in cultural trends throughout the nation and the world, and addressing the epidemic can provide a valuable model for other states and countries; and

WHEREAS, By establishing goals for reversing the epidemic, the state can account for progress by measuring the resources devoted to the problem along with the results of improved health and wellness; now, therefore, be it

Resolved by the Senate of the State of California, the Assembly thereof concurring, That the Legislature encourages leadership in all branches and levels of government, local action by communities, initiatives by schools and workplaces, increased recreation and physical activity that is accessible for all Californians, expanded healthy food options in restaurants, markets, and homes, and increased emphasis on health education and prevention of obesity and diabetes; and be it further

Resolved, That the Legislature recognizes that the state can be a role model for increased physical activity and improved nutrition and wellness throughout the nation and the world; and be it further

Resolved, That the results of the efforts to reverse the obesity and diabetes epidemic be measured in the years to come; and be it further

Resolved, That the Secretary of the Senate transmit copies of this resolution to the author for appropriate distribution.